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RURAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT

newsletter

May 1962

No. 43

*We must show the
world what a
free economy can do
...to put unused
capacity to work,
spur new
productivity and
foster higher
economic growth.
President Kennedy.*

SECRETARY REPORTS ON PROJECT OPPORTUNITY

¶ Secretary Freeman has announced that the Department of Agriculture is prepared to begin a series of demonstration projects, which he termed "Project Opportunity." The Secretary said the projects will show that new economic opportunities for the American farmer can be developed on land which produces crops that are in excess supply.

Secretary Freeman outlined three major approaches to "Project Opportunity." The first will seek profitable new uses for cropland by shifting it to the production of grass and family forests. The second will encourage development of recreational resources through small watersheds, town and country recreation programs, and cooperative programs between farmers and sportsmen. The third will be a concentrated effort to renew opportunities in rural areas so they become attractive to outside investment and individual initiative.



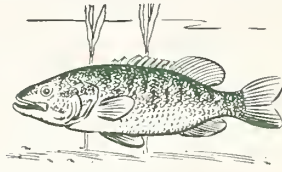
EXAMPLES OF FARM RECREATION ACTIVITIES NOW BEING CARRIED OUT

¶ Soil Conservation Service, USDA, recently asked its state offices for examples of recreation-income producing activities now in existence on watersheds and farmlands. The following are typical replies:

- * In Missouri, 17 farmers in St. Charles County opened their ponds for fishing for four days to raise money for district activities.
- * At Groton, Massachusetts, Richard Priest built a ski slope to supplement his income from an apple orchard. Now he has tows on seven different slopes, and apple trees are coming out to make room for the skiers.
- * In Belknap County, New Hampshire, two ex-farmers built private golf courses on their land. One was a dairyman, the other was raising beef cattle.



- * In Florida, S. C. Ingram developed 107 acres of land for fishing and hunting. He organized a sportsmen's club, and receives \$150 from each of 50 members.
- * Near Mineola, Texas, C. W. Gearner spent about \$5,000 on boats, fishing piers, and other improvements to his existing ponds to develop them for fishing. He sells fishing permits at \$1 per person per day, and grosses around \$3,000 annually.
- * Eugene Corbin of Colusa County, California, adds about \$1,500 a year to his regular ranch income by flooding 17 acres and leasing it to duck hunters.



WHAT RECREATION WOULD MEAN TO ARKANSAS

¶ If a National Recreation Area were established on the Buffalo River in Arkansas, within five years visitors to the area might be contributing more than 3 1/2 million dollars annually to the local economy. This is equivalent to about 34 industrial plants of the average size found in Arkansas.

That was an estimate made by Dr. Max F. Jordan, agricultural economist with the Economic Research Service of the U.S.D.A., now working with the University of Arkansas Agricultural Experiment Station. Approximately 16.3 million persons live within 300 air miles of the Arkansas area, studied by Dr. Jordan.

VIRGINIA MINISTER ALERTS CLERGY ABOUT RURAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT

¶ In a recent letter to the Town and Country Clergy of the Diocese around Peytonsburg, Virginia, the Reverend William S. Anthony wrote: "I make the suggestion that you (clergy) get in touch with the county agent and get in on RAD. For three reasons: First, it's a chance to be identified with other county leaders in a cooperative team effort. I think we belong on the team and I think it does the Church no harm for us parsons to be members of such a team.



"Second, RAD is non-governmental; it's up to the citizenry. Agencies of government give advice and, when needed, money. If anyone thinks there's too much government, or too much centralization, here's your chance and I think, obligation. Third, I think RAD, rightly used, promises real and substantial help to our rural and agricultural counties with basic social and economic problems."

AREA REDEVELOPMENT PROGRESS CONTINUES

¶ Nearly 90 occupational training projects under ARA in 22 states are providing important retraining opportunities to 7,609 jobless workers. More than \$4 million for training and subsistence has been used in the ARA training program.



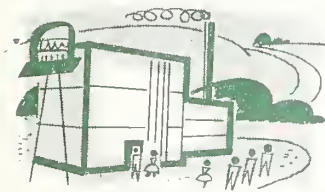
¶ USDA has received for review over 100 project proposals from designated rural areas. Recommendations have been made to ARA of the Department of Commerce on more than 70 of these proposals. Over 235 Overall Economic Development Programs, covering around 511 rural counties, have been received by Arriculture for review.

¶ Eleven additional 5b (rural or labor market) areas were designated last month as eligible to participate in the ARA program. Designation of the new areas brought to 883 the total number of ARA areas.

¶ ARA has approved 31 projects in 18 states involving 8,480 jobs. These projects include lumber processing plants, furniture factories, soft drink plants, sea food plants, paper mills, and tourist attractions, also public facilities of various kinds.

RAD AND ARA MOVE AHEAD IN NORTH CAROLINA

¶ Thirty-one of the 33 counties designated for ARA assistance in North Carolina have established or are in the process of establishing development organizations. Other counties in the state, not designated by ARA, are developing RAD programs.



One RAD area is expanding its tourist industry, enlarging its woodworking plant and adding to its hosiery mill. Another area has a technical study underway to determine the feasibility of a hot springs resort. There is a study being made to determine the use of ceramic clays in the county and a proposal to develop a training school under ARA for carpenters, brick masons, and plumbers.

UNION INVESTS \$25 MILLION IN INSURED FARM LOANS

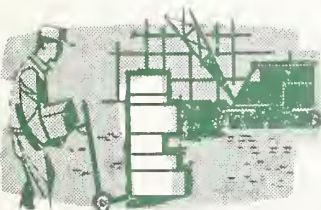
¶ A labor union is investing its pension funds to help finance the development of family farms in the United States. The International Ladies Garment Worker's Union, AFL-CIO, is making available approximately \$25 million for insured farm loans in 1962. It is the first time union funds have been invested in the insured farm loans, administered by Farmers Home Administration. The loans will be used to improve, enlarge and purchase family farms, refinance farm debts and develop water systems for farm households and for irrigation.



"We welcome this evidence of a strong common bond between the farmer and the worker," Secretary Freeman said. "American labor has supported farm programs which are in the long-range interest of all people. A healthy family farm economy means an abundant supply of food and fiber, and the family farmer has made food one of the greatest bargains in the marketplace today."

President David Dubinsky of ILGWU commented that "We are well aware of the tremendous amounts of industrial products consumed by farm families. We also are delighted to play a part in strengthening and maintaining the independent family farm system upon which our nation was founded."

MOVE FAST TO PUT INDIANA PEOPLE BACK TO WORK



¶ When the need is paramount, local and federal people work hard and fast to solve problems. A good example is taking place now in Washington, D. C. The story, itself, began early last month in Borden, Indiana, population 400. The town's one and main industry burned, April 6, putting 196 people out of work.

On April 7, a field man from ARA arrived on the scene. On April 9, a man from the Office of Rural Areas Development, USDA arrived to help. On April 10, forms for an

ARA loan and a grant were presented to the Indiana Governor's designee for review. On April 11, applications were brought back to Washington. On April 12, USDA agencies reviewed and recommended approval to Commerce for an ARA loan to rebuild the plant, and of an ARA grant to build a water system. On April 13, ARA in Commerce received loan and grant applications, and started the reviewing process.

FARMERS HOME ADMINISTRATION SETS UP RURAL RENEWAL DIVISION

¶ Farmers Home Administration has established a rural renewal division, headed by John M. Lovorn, to direct the agency's participation in rural areas development and renewal activities. Among the several assignments of the new division are reviewing OEDP's developed by local RAD committees; guiding FHA-chaired local technical panels in helping plan and develop pilot rural renewal projects; and reviewing requests to ARA for technical aid, public facility, and training projects for rural areas eligible to receive ARA assistance.

MINNESOTA AREA SEEKS ARA AID

¶ The Ely Minnesota Municipal Area Redevelopment Agency has applied through the ARA for help to finance a new lumber mill and a feasibility study for a multi-million-dollar wood processing plant in Ely. In addition the Governor of Minnesota has directed the State's Department of Business Development to transmit to ARA a request for a pilot briquetting plant near Proctor.

The Proctor plant would house an experimental project designed to determine a practical means of agglomerating Minnesota ores which are too fine in size for use in blast furnaces.

AVAILABLE INFORMATIONAL AIDS ABOUT RAD

¶ The Department of Agriculture now has a 10-foot electrified rural areas development exhibit, which is available for interested groups for national, regional or state meetings. The exhibit lists the aims of rural areas development, and of the scope of activities possible in area development. For more information about the exhibit, write Exhibit Service, Office of Information, USDA, Washington 25, D. C.



¶ Area Redevelopment Administration of the U. S. Department of Commerce also has an exhibit, available for meetings. It measures 36 inches by 73 inches, weighs about 45 pounds and is portable. A requirement for loan is assurance that an ARA knowledgeable person will man the exhibit. Request forms may be obtained from Information Office, Area Redevelopment Administration, U. S. Department of Commerce, Washington 25, D. C.

¶ Just off the press. The long awaited handbook about rural areas development is now available in limited copies. Entitled "Pegs for Rural Progress," the handbook can be obtained by writing, Editor, RAD Newsletter, Office of Information, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C.

CHURCH IN RURAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT

¶ May 27 is Rural Life Sunday, just 12 days after the Centennial year of the U. S. Department of Agriculture begins. Rural Life Sunday also marks the beginning of Soil Stewardship Week.